

## IN OKLAHOMA.

J. P. SLAUGHTER, Meteorologist.

[Weather Bureau, Oklahoma, Okla.]

A tornado occurred at Lawton, Comanche County, Okla., at about 7:15 a. m. April 8, 1922. The storm moved from the southeast to the northwest<sup>1</sup> and a funnel-shaped cloud was noted. The storm moved through the western outskirts of the town, its path being from two to three blocks in width. The storm was preceded and followed by a heavy downpour of rain, which continued until 9:30 a. m. Three persons were killed and 18 injured. Several residences were destroyed. Total damage was estimated at \$15,000.

Early the same morning a tornado was reported near Frederick, Tillman County. The storm path was through a farm district 5 miles southwest of Frederick. One person was killed and one person injured. One residence was destroyed and two consolidated schools were partly wrecked. Details as to damage are missing. It seems probable that this storm was the same that struck Lawton, Frederick lying to the southwest of Lawton.

## IN SOUTHWESTERN MISSOURI.

WALTER B. HARE, Meteorologist.

[Weather Bureau, Springfield, Mo.]

At 7 a. m. on April 10, 1922, an intense, well-formed circular area of low pressure (cyclone) appeared over Nebraska, western Iowa, western Missouri, western Arkansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas, and eastern Colorado. Concordia, Kansas, reported the lowest barometric pressure, 29.26 inches reduced to sea level. Tornadoes most frequently occur in the southern or southeastern portion of cyclonic areas and from 200 to 800 miles from their centers. Southwestern Missouri was about 300 miles southeast of the storm center and a tornado made its appearance about five miles west of Miller, a village in Lawrence County, Missouri, about 35 miles due west of Springfield.

*Miller.*—William Boyd's house about five miles west of Miller, was demolished shortly before 9 a. m. Two of the inmates suffered severe injury. The roofs of many houses in Miller were swept away and a number of barns destroyed. Rain was falling at the time of the passage of the tornado, the characteristic low hanging black cloud was seen and a loud roaring noise was heard. The tornado came from the southwest and moved toward the northeast.

*Ash Grove.*—From Miller the storm moved northeastward until it reached Ash Grove, a distance of about 21 miles N. 60° E. The passage of the tornado from Miller to Ash Grove was marked by uprooted and by twisted trees, but the northeastern corner of Lawrence County is sparsely settled and not much damage was done until the tornado passed into the northwestern corner of Greene County. This section was visited by the writer about seven hours after the passing of the storm and the typical destruction of the tornado was clearly visible. The width of the path of destruction was from one-eighth to one-quarter of a mile. Reliable observers at Ash Grove report that rain fell steadily and heavily during the passage of the tornado, that a terrific roaring sound accompanied it, that a violet-colored<sup>2</sup> funnel-shaped

cloud descended from the sky to the earth, touching the earth in places, then ascending 15 to 20 feet, then touching the earth again; that the path of the tornado cloud was not in a straight line but zigzag, moving in the general direction of northeast; that no hail accompanied the storm; that the funnel cloud sucked into itself roofs, haystacks, houses, cattle, and mules; and that only moderate winds were blowing a quarter of a mile from the funnel cloud. "It moved slower than a train, and made more noise than 50 trains."

J. D. Culbertson, who lived about three quarters of a mile west of Ash Grove, was in a small frame outbuilding directly in the path of the storm. The house was totally destroyed and Mr. Culbertson, 72 years old, was killed and his body carried 100 yards from the original position of the house. The frame outbuilding was lifted entirely over a two-story concrete house near it. The upper story of the concrete house was completely demolished.

The storm continued north-northeast, and is said to have sucked up the water from a stream, although the evidence of this action is rather doubtful; passed through a closely wooded section and up a hill, demolished the Baker farmhouse, one inmate being killed and two others severely injured. A second dwelling in this neighborhood was demolished and two persons severely injured.

The storm did little damage to the town of Ash Grove, but the Frisco tracks were covered with wreckage and debris.

The storm moved thence to the north-northeast, passing Phenix with but little damage. It passed within 2 miles of Walnut Grove and lifted the house from around the family of Marshall Dodd, near Walnut Grove, leaving them sitting as they were before the storm struck. From Phenix the tornado took a more easterly path and struck Harold, a village about 17 miles northeast of Ash Grove.

*Harold.*—At Harold two blacksmith shops, two dwellings, and a schoolhouse were totally destroyed and several persons received minor injuries. The property loss here amounted to several thousand dollars. All the scholars in the schoolhouse followed the teacher's orders and prostrated themselves upon the floor until the storm passed. The schoolhouse was wrecked, but no one was injured. The tornado next struck Luck, due northeast of Harold a few miles.

*Luck.*—At Luck two dwellings were totally destroyed, and the schoolhouse was blown to pieces. This was shortly after 9 o'clock. School had been in session but a short time when the storm struck Luck.

As the schoolhouse began to sway before the fury of the storm, the teacher braced herself against the door and instructed the children to prostrate themselves upon the floor. Twice the west end of the building was lifted from the foundation and the windows were shattered by flying timbers. The third onslaught of the wind totally demolished the building and hurled the teacher and the children several feet from the building, severely injuring Eva Nail, 7 years old, who died from her injuries.

Morrisville, in the south central part of Polk County, reported some slight damage from the tornado. It evidently died away near that point. Morrisville is 7 miles N. 15° E. from Luck. The total length of the tornado's path was about 49 miles from Miller to Morrisville.

Property was damaged to the probable extent of \$100,000.

<sup>1</sup> In a later communication Mr. Slaughter reports the most probable direction as being north-northeast.—*EDITOR.*

<sup>2</sup> Statement made by three persons evidently without collusion.—*EDITOR.*